

Message Text

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61

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

OMB-01 ACDA-05 EUR-12 STR-04 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00

INT-05 FEA-01 DOTE-00 /097 W
----- 109187

R 161926Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2021

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, VE

SUBJ: OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM BRIBERY CASE

REF: 75 CARACAS 10649, 75 CARACAS 10965, CARACAS 1800

1. OCCIDENTAL CASE, WHICH HAD DROPPED OUT OF THE NEWS FOR THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS, RETURNED TO PROMINENCE WITH REVELATIONS IMPLICATING SIX PERSONS IN THE SCANDAL. ON FEBRUARY 14 THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE RECALLING PRESIDENT PEREZ'S PLEDGE WHEN HE CASE BROKE IN OCTOBER 1975 THAT FULL INVESTIGATION WOULD BE MADE (75 CARACAS 10649) AND STATING THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD THAT DATE DELIVERED TO THE FISCAL GENERAL THE RESULTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S INVESTIGATION, WHICH HAD BEEN CONDUCTED SEPARATELY FROM THOSE OF THE FISCAL GENERAL AND THE VENEZUELAN CONGRESS.

2. THE FISCAL GENERAL HAS NOT COMMENTED SUBSTANTIVELY ON THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO HIM, BUT UNIDENTIFIED "OFFICIAL SOURCES" INDICATED TO THE PRESS THAT VENEZUELA'S OPEC GOVERNOR ALBERTO FLORES, A FORMER EMPLOYEE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES, HAD RECEIVED \$106,400; ROSA RIVERO ZAMORA, ALSO OF THE MINES MINISTRY, \$316,900; JOSE TORO HARDY,

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AN ECONOMIST ONCE EMPLOYED BY THE VENEZUELAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (75 CARACAS 10965), 600 SHARES OF THE ALTAMAR

DRILLING COMPANY; AND CARMEN ROSA CUMARE, \$40,000; RAUL CUMARE HERNANDEZ, \$25,000; AND CHANDRA TAKON, 46,000. THE IDENTITIES OF THE THREE LAST-NAMED ARE NOT YET CLEAR.

3. FLORES, TRAVELING IN THE MIDDLE EAST ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS, WAS IMMEDIATELY ORDERED TO RETURN TO CARACAS.

4. COMMENT: IT IS SPECULATED THAT PEREZ CHOSE THIS MOMENT TO SURFACE HIS INVESTIGATION OF THE OCCIDENTAL CASE IN ORDER TO DRAW PUBLIC ATTENTION AWAY FROM THE EMBARRASSING INVESTIGATION INTO CORRUPTION IN THE GOV'S WATER SUPPLY AGENCY BEING CONDUCTED BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL (CARACAS 1800). IT IS ALSO ASSUMED THAT FLORES WILL RESIGN AS OPEC GOVERNOR. SHLAUDEMAN

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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